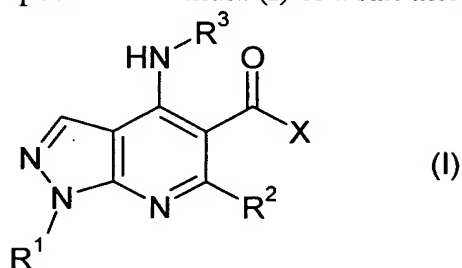


ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof:

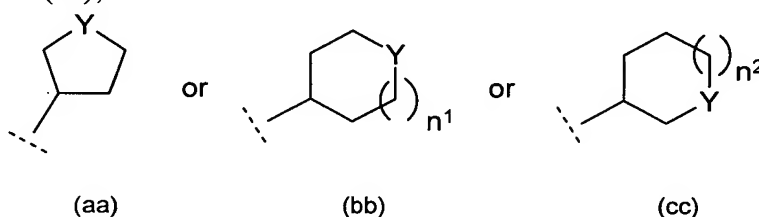


wherein:

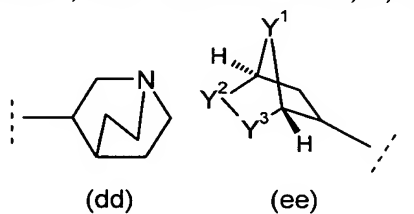
R¹ is C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₃fluoroalkyl, -CH₂CH₂OH or -CH₂CH₂CO₂C₁₋₂alkyl;

R² is a hydrogen atom (H), methyl or C₁fluoroalkyl;

R³ is optionally substituted C₃₋₈cycloalkyl or optionally substituted mono-unsaturated-C₅₋₇cycloalkenyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group of sub-formula (aa), (bb) or (cc);



in which n¹ and n² independently are 1 or 2; and in which Y is O, S, SO₂, or NR¹⁰;



or R³ is a bicyclic group (dd) or (ee):

and wherein X is NR⁴R⁵ or OR^{5a}.

The compounds are phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors, in particular PDE4 inhibitors. Also provided is the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of an inflammatory and/or allergic disease in a mammal such as a human, for example chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, or allergic rhinitis.